

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 13-22, 29-37,40, and 43 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 23-28, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 45 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-28, 38-39, 41-42 and 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Evans (WO 02/00844) in view of Volkin *et al.* (WP 97/408839).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position. However, solely in an effort to advance prosecution, and not in acquiescence to any reasoning underlying the Examiner's rejection, claims 23-28, 38-39, 41-42 and 44-45 have been canceled. As such, Applicants submit that the rejection has been rendered moot and request its withdrawal.

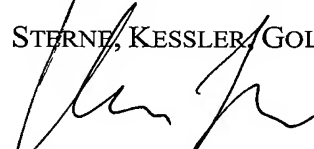
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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